

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FEA-01 PA-02

PRS-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 /144 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3195

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AG

SUBJ: ALGERIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF PREPCON II

1. SUMMARY: OFFICIAL ALGERIAN PRESS REACTION TO PREPCON II HAS PROGRESSED FROM ATTITUDE OF SKEPTICISM AND HOSTILITY AT BEGINNING OF CONFERENCE TO ONE OF SATISFACTION WITH PROBABLE SUCCESS OF SESSION AND WITH EVOLUTION OF ATTITUDE OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. TONE OF PRESS COVERAGE OF PREPCON II BY OFFICIAL DAILY EL MOUDJAHID HAS SHOWN STEADY IMPROVEMENT DURING COURSE OF CONFERENCE. IN REPORTS IN OCT. 12-13 EDITION, EL MOUDJAHID COMPLAINED LOUDLY ABOUT ATTEMPTS BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO DIVIDE THE THIRD WORLD BY CLASSIFYING CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS INTO GROUPS OF CONSUMERS, PRODUCERS, AND LDCS AND BY BLAMING OPEC FOR PLIGHT OF NON-OIL LDCS. PAPER SAID THIS AUGURED BADLY FOR SUCCESS OF DIALOGUE.

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3. BY TUESDAY 14, EL MOUDJAHID WAS EXPRESSING CAUTIOUS

OPTIMISM BASED ON RESULTS OF FIRST DAY. ARTICLES ALSO CITED COMMENTS BY US OFFICIALS THAT THEY CONSIDERED PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AN ESSENTIAL STEP IN SEARCH FOR NEW GLOBAL CONSENSUS BASED ON COOPERATION. IN SIGNED ARTICLE ON NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO), HOWEVER, THERE WERE MISGIVINGS VOICED THAT USA WOULD ACCEPT "CERTAIN DIALOGUE" WHICH IT WOULD THEN TRY TO TORPEDO FROM INSIDE. THIS COMMENTARY ALSO UNDERTOOK RATHER TORTURED ANALYSIS OF HOW ACTIONS BY DEVELOPED WORLD HAD HURT ECONOMIES OF LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FAR MORE THAN OPEC PRICE INCREASES.

4. ALTHOUGH NIEO THEME PURSUED FOLLOWING DAY WITH CALLS INTER ALIA FOR ABOLITION OF LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND AS MECHANISM OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE, FACTUAL COVERAGE OF PROBLEMS AT PREPCON RE OBSERVERS AND ORIENTATION OF COMMISSIONS RECEIVED MORE PROMINENT TREATMENT. SEPARATE ARTICLE WAS DEVOTED TO UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S REPORTED STATEMENT NOTING IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE WHICH CHARACTERIZED SECOND PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AND FACT THE US HAD FUNDAMENTALLY MODIFIED ITS POSITION.

5. COVERAGE OCTOBER 16 NOTED "SLIGHTLY EUPHORIC" ATMOSPHERE AT PARIS AND EVIDENT SENSE OF RELIEF AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS. THERE HAD BEEN GREAT PROGRESS, EL MOUDJAHID SAID, IN BRINGING TOGETHER VIEWS OF THIRD WORLD AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES-- PROGRESS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN UNIMAGINABLE SIX MONTHS AGO. IT ADDED THAT CLEAR EVOLUTION OF ATTITUDE ON PART OF "CERTAIN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES" ALLOWED UNDERSTANDING, WHICH IN REALITY, IS BEGINNING OF LONG AWAITED DIALOGUE.PARKER

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